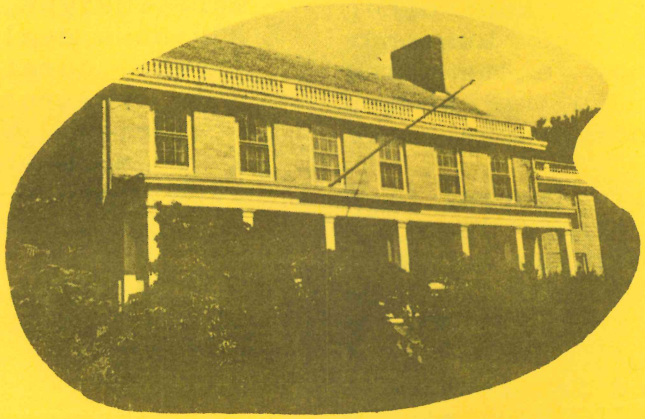
New London County Historical Society

11 Blinman Street SHAW MANSION New London, Conn.

APR 05 '89
NEW LONDON CONN.



Quarterly Bulletin

VOL. 35 NO. 1 SPRING 1989

MEMBERSHIP PARTY

A membership party will be held on Sunday, April 30, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Douglas Alves, Director of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society.

Mr. Alves will present a program about the many historical properties that the A&L cares for, including the Joshua Hempstead house.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

All members who are interested in volunteering at the Shaw Mansion are invited to attend an orientation program on Sunday, April 9, beginning at 3:00 p.m., at the mansion.

Emphasis will be on duties of interpreters, but anyone interested in reception, curatorial, library or administrative activities are encouraged to attend.

If you are unable to attend this program, you are still encouraged to act as a volunteer at the mansion. Please call Will Hare at 443-1209, if you plan to be there or if you are interested but can't attend.

SUMMER EXHIBIT

The first annual summer exhibit is scheduled to open sometime in early June.

Entitled, "History's Attic, 118 Years of Collecting", the exhibit will feature pieces from our extensive collection of photographs, paintings, textiles and objects related to the history of New London.

Scheduled to be open until September, the exhibit will introduce the historical society's role as a preserver of New London heritage as well as a means to encourage more people to visit the Shaw Mansion.

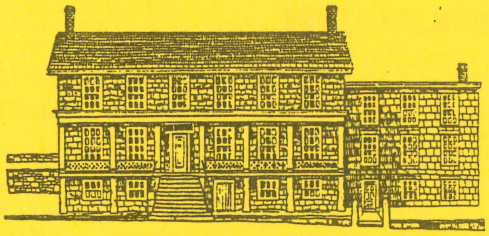
Further notice will be sent out when a definite opening date is set. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to come and see it.

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

In order to encourage researchers, authors, and other historical agencies to use our photograph collection, we are going to re-organize it so that we can find particular photographs more easily.

This will involve sorting them by size and marking their location on the appropriate catalog cards. A semi-permanent work room will be set up in order to facilitate this project.

Any one interested in lending a hand should call Will Hare at the mansion. This project should be an enjoyable one, as there are some real treasures in our collection.



NEW INTERPRETATION

The initial research for the new interpretation of the Shaw Mansion is almost completed. Further work will be done using the papers of the Shaw family and other primary sources.

The curator would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Drago for their indispensable assistance in the first stage of this project.

Plans are being made to search the collection of Shaw papers at Yale University in hopes of finding more insight to the daily lives and business dealings of the family.

The curator also plans to do some research in the library at Old Sturbridge Village in order to learn more about life in 18th and 19th century New England.

If you are interested in working on the research project or volunteering as an interpreter, please call the curator at the mansion.

CURATOR'S REPORT

Spring has arrived (although I don't think it ever left), and it's time to plant gardens, hold lawn sales and make plans for the summer.

A great way to celebrate the new season is to attend the membership party on April 30. Doug Alves of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society will be here to tell us about the beautiful houses they will have open for touring this summer. It should be a most enjoyable time for every one.

You may have noticed a common theme in this issue of the bulletin. Most all of the stories are directed in some way towards volunteerism; an issue that I feel is very important.

The Board of Directors and I are eager to enhance the image of the historical society in the community. We hope to accomplish this goal with special programs, exhibits, school programs and increase use of the research library. All of this takes time and hard work.

An organization like ours needs

volunteers to help make our goals attainable and to give the society vitality.

It is your enthusiasm and energy as members of the society that give life to the mansion and the collection it holds. Without people they are only dusty reminders of a past era.

It will take time to work out the bugs in a new volunteer force. But I cannot urge you enough to become involved in the increasing activities at the mansion. With so much work that needs to be done, there is bound to be a job that will interest you.

GARDENING

Any member that has visited the mansion during the summer season is sure to have enjoyed the beautiful flower gardens planted by our custodian, Janet Miceli.

Anyone with a "green thumb" who would like to assist in the upkeep of the gardens are encouraged to contact her or the curator at the mansion.

ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have changed your address, please notify the curator so that the membership list can be updated. This is the only way to guarantee that all membership mailings will be received on time.

New London County Hist. Soc.
11 Blinman St.
New London, CT 06320
(203) 443-1209

Dr. Edgar deN. Mayhew, President
Mr. William E. Hare II, Curator
Mr. and Mrs. Miceli, Custodians

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INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN !!!

Application for Membership

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I hereby apply for membership in The New London County Historical Society and enclose the required amount for dues.

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Life Membership $250, to be applied on Endowment Fund of the Society.
Single Membership $12.00 from Sept. 1, 19 to Sept. 1, 19
Family Membership $20.00 Contributing Member $50.00

Name .....

Street .....

City .....

State .....

The New London County Hist. Soc.
11 Blinman St.
New London, CT. 06320

Serials Dept Conn College Library
New London CT 06320